

New Bedford Neighborhoods and Schools Air Quality

School Buildings

Hazards

- ☐ Contagious airborne pathogens that cause disease, disability, and death, including but not limited to: SARS-CoV-2, influenza, measles, TB
- ☐ Particulate from wildfire smoke drift
- ☐ High-traffic road exhaust and tire particulate
- ☐ Cars idling at school drop-off and pickup
- ☐ Fumes from boat traffic and harbor activity
- ☐ CO2 buildup from breathing and failure to bring in fresh air
- ☐ Increased incidence of illness deriving from air quality hazards leads to increased incidence of long-term effects on health, which in turn increases the potential for higher special education costs, meaning higher taxes

Suggestions for improvements

- ☐ City reduces drop-off / pickup hazard by employing outdoor monitors to meet kids at cars, significantly reducing wait time and traffic buildup
- ☐ Allow parents to use the bus turn-around space for drop-off / pickup
- ☐ Accelerate advocacy for methods of drop-off / pickup that reduce use of private auto; bike-bus (expanded bike parking is required), walking, carpool exchange
- ☐ Utilize as intended ARPA- ESSER funds before they expire to overhaul district schools' ventilation systems to meet or exceed new ASHRAE standards
- ☐ Install air quality monitoring within school buildings that is publicly accessible just like Boston, MA school system

Sources:

EPA

- TOOLKIT FOR SCHOOLS <https://www.epa.gov/iaq-schools/indoor-air-quality-tools-schools-action-kit>
- IMPACT ON HEALTH <https://www.epa.gov/iaq-schools/how-does-indoor-air-quality-impact-student-health-and-academic-performance>

ASHRAE NEW STANDARDS

- <https://www.ashrae.org/about/news/2024/ashrae-s-latest-edition-performance-standard-for-existing-buildings-shifts-focus-to-decarbonization>
- (PDF) https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/technical%20resources/free%20resources/design-guidance-for-education-facilities_version-2.0.pdf

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AIR QUALITY LIVE MONITORING

- <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/Page/8810>
- (THE LIVE MAP) <https://bostonschoolsiaq.terrabase.com/#>

WHITE HOUSE CLEAN AIR CHALLENGE

- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/cleanindoorair/>

US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- FACT SHEET <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus/improving-ventilation>
- ARPA-ESSER (PDF) https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/FINAL_ARP-ESSER-FACT-SHEET.pdf
- LONG COVID, SECTION 504 AND THE IDEA <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/idea-files/long-covid-under-section-504-and-the-idea-a-resource/>